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~~EMPLOYEES~~

BULLETIN

STATINTL

No.

3 September 1975

House Select Committee on Intelligence

House Resolution 591 established a House Select Committee to review U.S. intelligence activities. The Resolution calls for a comprehensive review of the organization, operations, and oversight of the U.S. intelligence community.

It is in the interests of all of us to see that the Select Committee gains a full understanding of our activities and the importance of their contribution to the country as expeditiously as possible. I have every confidence that the inquiry will produce new understanding of and improvements in the American intelligence system.

It is with this conviction that I have pledged my personal cooperation, and that of the CIA. I have advised Chairman Pike and Vice-Chairman McClory that employees of the CIA will be available to the Select Committee for interviews and for testimony. Most of these interviews and testimony will be designed merely to obtain factual or background information. The Committee may also delve into activities it feels are not clearly spelled out in our charter. Employees called for interview or testimony who feel concern about their personal responsibility should not hesitate to consult with our General Counsel. They furthermore may be assured that the Agency will give every proper assistance to employees in placing in context the responsibilities and authority that were laid upon them with respect to any areas under inquiry.

We are working out procedures with the Committee Staff to facilitate their work. Attached to this bulletin is a letter which I have sent to Chairman Pike. To facilitate the necessary work of the Committee and in recognition of the security protection contemplated by the Committee, I have determined that disclosure of otherwise protected information to the Select Committee or its designated Staff members will constitute authorized provision of information within the meaning of the Secrecy Agreements signed by each CIA employee, subject to the

special procedures and limitations set forth in the letter regarding particularly sensitive matters. Of course, employees must bear in mind that this limited release allowing them to disclose classified information to the Committee does not constitute a general release. It is one limited to the Committee only.

The cooperative spirit of our relationship with the Committee and its Staff must at the same time take into account the rights of Agency employees. The Committee Staff has agreed to advise employees of their Constitutional rights at the beginning of any interview or other appearance.

When a current Agency employee is selected to be interviewed, the Staff Director or Chief Counsel will normally notify the Review Staff [redacted] who will then contact the employee through the appropriate Directorate. This procedure is intended to allow time for the employee to gain general legal advice if he or she wants it, on which he may consult our General Counsel, and to obtain security guidance from an appropriate senior officer.

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As in the case of the Senate Select Committee, my own belief is that after a careful review of all U.S. intelligence activities, the House Committee will address needed legislative changes and will reaffirm its confidence in the importance and contribution of U. S. intelligence.


W. E. Colby
Director

Attachment: a/s

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DD/A Distribution:

*1 Xerox Copy Hand Carried to O-DD/A (late evening of 3 September 1975) by [redacted] secretary Linda w/request that it be published in Employee Bulletin Form

1 Xerox Made for DD/A Subject File

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*Original of Bulletin not furnished O-DD/A for publication.

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